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*Beyond the
political rhetoric,
beauty lies in
the eye of the
beholder...*

by Ryan Peterson

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Syria okays UN chem arms probe, US weighs military action

DAMASCUS (AFP) - UN experts today are to start investigating the site of an alleged Syrian chemical weapons attack after a go-ahead from Damascus, as a sceptical Washington said Syria's acceptance had come too late.

In an escalation of a show-down over a suspected chemical weapons attack near Damascus last week, the United States pointed the finger of blame at President Bashar al-Assad's regime as it weighed military action.

"There is very little doubt at this point that a chemical weapon was used by the Syrian regime against civilians in this incident," based on the reported number of victims and their symptoms, as well as US and other foreign intelligence, one official in Washington told AFP.

Syria's opposition says more than 1,300 people died when regime forces unleashed chemical weapons against rebel-held towns east and southwest of Damascus on August 21, while Doctors Without Borders said

355 people had died of "neurotoxic" symptoms.

Damascus has strongly denied it carried out such an attack, instead blaming the rebels.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told a Jerusalem press conference on Sunday there was "no doubt" the Damascus regime was behind the suspected attack.

"From the moment the substance of the facts is established incontestably (by the UN inspectors), there will necessarily be a strong response," he added.

Moscow bluntly warned the West that military action against the Syrian regime would be a "tragic mistake."

"We strongly urge those who, by attempting to impose their own results on the UN experts, are raising the possibility of a military operation in Syria to use their common sense and refrain from committing a tragic mistake," foreign ministry spokesman Alexander Kashevich's said in a statement.

Syria's foreign ministry said that visiting UN disarmament

envoy Angela Kane struck the accord with the Syrian government yesterday for a probe.

The United Nations said in a statement the investigation would begin as early as today.

US officials said President Barack Obama, who held crisis talks Saturday with top security aides, would make an "informed decision" about how to respond to an "indiscriminate" chemical weapons attack.

Washington had noted that Syria had offered to let UN inspectors view the site of the alleged attack, but suggested it was too little, too late, said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"At this juncture, the belated decision by the regime to grant access to the UN team is too late to be credible, including because the evidence available has been significantly corrupted as a result of the regime's persistent shelling and other intentional actions over the last five days," the official said.

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Carnival was born in 1954, as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there.

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will certainly feel at least the latter after a visit to Aruba's only authentic Jamaican restaurant, the newly opened Jamaica Mi Irie in San Nicolas.

The kitchen is the beloved effort of well known island chef, Jeffrey Roy Elliott, the master in the kitchen of Elliott's Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Jeffrey has gone back to his Jamaican roots for this enthu-



Jeffrey Elliott and wife Daisy

sia effort with his wife Daisy, who loves being the happy hostess. The regular menu features the traditional cuisine such as Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, Beef oxtail, Stewed Pork, Jerk Pork, Fried Fish plus a house specialty, Curried Goat. These are regular items, but Jeffrey prefers to pepper his menu with various "Specials of the Day" made from what is fresh and seasonal.

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Beyond the political rhetoric, beauty lies in the eye of the beholder...

As the island of Aruba prepares for major elections on September 27, the Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and the Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA) last week organized a political debate amongst the three political parties, which currently hold a seat in Aruba's Parliament. In line with the business interests of their stakeholders, CoC and ATIA organized the debate around four basic issues, i.e., the economy, public finances, health insurance and pension benefits, in which independent facts (national and international statistics) were presented and party leaders were invited to react and answer. The CoC and ATIA should be commended for this initiative, especially as political and electoral debates are scarce on Aruba.

Of the six parties that have submitted candidates for parliamentary seats those invited to the debate are leaders of the three parties now holding office. Taking to the podiums at the Westin Aruba Resort on Thursday evening, September 22 were Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, head of



Candidates and moderator

the Arubaanse Volks Partij or AVP, Evelyn Wever-Croes, head of the Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo, or MEP, and Andin Bikker, leader of the Partido Democracia Real, or PDR. AVP has 12 seats and the majority, MEP holds eight and PDR has one.

Truth is a delusion?

Nonetheless, beyond the classical political rhetoric of personal and past references, ex-post rationalizations and "ridiculations," not to mention, ravishing in external loci of control, the debate

proved to be less of a debate, and more of a disenchanting discourse on past and present, in which somehow the future was lost, to paraphrase Winston Churchill. Whereas independent facts were presented, it became blatantly obvious that there are 'lies, damn lies, and statistics' to quote Mark Twain.

While a philosophical and psychological analysis of (individual and collective) cognitive bias (of party leaders and followers) is beyond the confines of this editorial, needless to say, there are no such things as 'independent facts', as political realities are actively and socially constructed to satisfy personal needs and seek confirmation rather than confrontation. The human brain is wired in such a way to short-circuit 'facts' in order to accept the seductive comfort of self-delusion; 'truth' is thus simply a delusion.

Everyone is a winner?

No where is this most present than small (island) communities with strong social and emotional ties (i.e., social capital), in which there is no one single truth, only interpreted re-constructed half-

a simple testimony that beauty (or the lack thereof) lies in the eye of the beholder. Simply put, if you believe your favorite political candidate won the debate, than you are totally correct. Everyone is a winner, or so it seems...

Upon deeper reflection and analysis of the 'Q&A', it is remarkable (Note of the author: I admit to being cognitively biased towards future solutions, and not dwell on past problems or polemics) that the political candidates share more in common, then they would probably admit or have their respective constituencies believe. Beyond doubt, all candidates share a passion and love for Aruba, and all want change for Aruba, albeit some want (more of) the same change, and others want a different kind of change.

Continued on page 3

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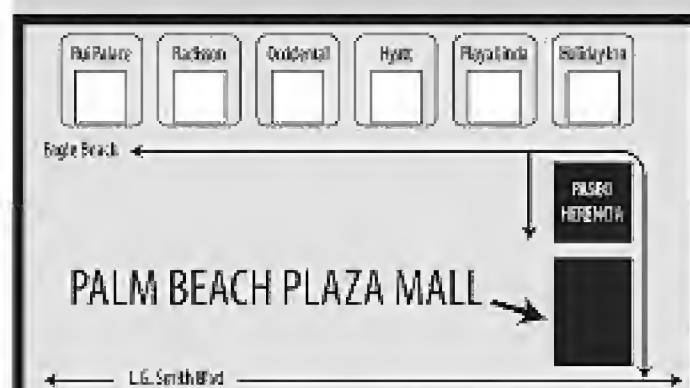
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Beyond the political rhetoric, beauty lies in the eye of the beholder...

Continued from page 2

Disagree to Agree?
While an in-depth content-analysis of the debate and the different plans of political parties is pending, getting rid of a 'delusion' makes us wiser than wanting to believe a half-fabricated truth. From an economic perspective, all

parties profess economic diversification and some sort of 'gateway' (hub) function for Aruba, in addition to wanting to re-open the oil-refinery. Likewise, business tax remains a thorny issue for all parties, as well as how exactly to improve the quality

and sustainability of tourism, which is Aruba's sole and strongest economic pillar.

As for public finances, all parties agree that it needs to be managed diligently; they acknowledge the depth and breadth of our financial challenges, and all concur that this can, must and will be curbed within three to five years. In terms of health care and health care insurance, again there is a 'group think' that health care needs to improve for all citizens, and that premiums need to be managed accordingly. All parties acknowledge that we have an aging workforce, and that labor productivity and pension benefits need to be addressed accordingly. Last but not least, social security and crime prevention are equally high on all the 'to do' lists of political parties. So beyond political rhetoric and classical 'divide and conquer' politics, beauty still lies in the eye of

the beholder.

Key to your destiny?

While it is unlikely (or at least unexpected) that political parties will openly agree to the foregoing observations on the implicit consensus (e.g., Economic gateway, Fiscal discipline, Business climate, Health reform, Service productivity) amongst their agendas for 'Aruba2020', it is very likely that they will disagree as to the manner in which (e.g., How? Where? and When?) their agendas should and will be executed (Note of the author: without acknowledging and addressing our educational and institutional deficiencies, the foregoing issues can not be resolved in a sustainable manner). Yet, it is this common ground where hope and directions reside; to agree to agree, to agree to disagree, and to get the job done.

In recognizing the (power of) collective love for Aruba,

and the collective focus and (implicit) consensus on a core set of national issues and solutions, there must be a way to forward this small, yet great nation we call our home, and our children call their future. We are the captains of our own faith, and we hold the key to our own destiny. True beauty lies beyond the eye of the beholder...

Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson is professor of innovation economics at the University of Aruba, with degrees in psychology, economics and governance, and over twenty years of international work-experience, with a strong interest and track-record in institutional capabilities for small-island development. Prof. Peterson is known to be socially progressive, environmentally conservative, economically innovative, and politically independent.



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Mr. and Mrs. Boulger honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently, The Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Heather Boulger as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honoring was bestowed on them for their more than 12 consecutive visit to our island. The honoring took place at the Radisson Resort and was presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger, Aruba Tourism Authority Representative in presence of Staff of the Radisson Resort.

The new Marriott Great Room is simply....Great!



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A very attractive option for quick but enjoyable business meetings and intimate tête-à-têtes has been inaugurated by the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino...the Great Room. The impressive and stylish lobby of the resort has been brought online with the international vision of the hospitality chain. Some very special touches have been added to the lobby bar's drink and food menu by their new Sous Chef Romeo, enhancing its value as an ideal venue to talk business, or simply savor the ambiance, while kicking back and enjoying excellent snacks, cocktails, and mellow music.

"Guest needs have changed," explained Great Room Manager Marietta Wentink. "The goal of this concept is to meet the needs of today's business travelers, allowing them to become more productive in an environment where they can meet, gather, "chill" and dine in comfort.

The kitchens are open from noon until 11:30 PM six days a week; 2:00 PM on Sundays. It is an ideal after or pre-dinner gathering place, as well as a cool and comfortable stop for lunch or a late night snack. The new 5-10-20 menu offers a diverse selection



Great Room Manager Marietta Wentink

of fusion cuisine, designated by the time you can expect it to be ready and at your table. If you are hungry and in a hurry, you can have your meal in 5 or 10 minutes, guaranteed, or patrons can linger over quick snacks while waiting for their heartier 20 minute choice. The menu also takes advantage of the sushi bar in the lobby, with a fine selection of exotic and standard rolls and sashimi combos.

The real star of the show during an introduction to the great room for island media on Friday evening, August 23, was the tantalizing cocktail menu. The Marriott's master Mixology team has devised a full selection of fabulous signature house drinks, prepared with premium liquors. Local media were greeted with the Patron Mojito, a refreshing, but potent potion.



Chef Romeo has devised a tantalizing menu

All the special cocktails are served in tall glasses; no skimping on these premium drinks. The bar is open from noon to 1:00 AM daily.

The Marriott Great Room features three happy hours daily, from 1:00 to 3:00 Miller Lite Draft is \$3.50, as well as from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, when flavored martinis are offered at two for \$10. Their Night Cap for Two special from 10:00 PM until Midnight serves pairs of Aruba Aribas and Cosmopolitans at only \$10 for both.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, there is music from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, which is kept on the down-low, allowing for easy, unstrained conversation, further enhancing the "chill-out" ambiance.



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Exclusive Interview with VIN "Riddick" DIESEL

by The MORNING NEWS Special Correspondent to Hollywood: Noel de Souza.

Fans of the franchise are gearing up for the third installment of the Riddick series, due to hit Aruban cinemas next week on September 5th. The first of them, "Pitch Black," proved to be the breakout role for Vin Diesel, who delivered a performance described by critics as "star-making." It established him as one of the top action-stars since its debut in 2000. His gruff persona and buff bod made box office magic and launched other franchises such as "xXx" and the enormously successful "Fast & Furious" films, with a seventh movie in that franchise already in pre-production.

The latest live action installment of the Riddick Saga, which has had several animated films, simply titled "Riddick," explains briefly on his situation at the end of the second film "The Chronicles of Riddick," when he has won an empire. This film opens with the antihero left on a desert planet to fight for his survival against alien predators, which are described as "vicious and more powerful than he can ever be." (Ardent fans would certainly argue that.) However, he is forced to activate an alarm beacon, and the nearest ships carry the very bounty hunters who are out to get him.

"When I meet Vin, he is warm, friendly and welcoming," reports TMN Hollywood Correspondent Noel de Souza. "We met in a room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel for this interview."

NDS: TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN SURVIVAL SKILLS, ARE YOU A SURVIVALIST?

VD: Yes I am. I inherited it from my mother, she is the ultimate survivalist. There is a

certain stoicism and strength that she has and so much of that strength comes to me from her. My mother was so resilient and resourceful, and she didn't have to have money, she could be all by herself with two little babies, and she could go anywhere in the world and she is a hero to me in so many ways. So I recognize that survival thing, my mother showed great resourcefulness. I have been blacklisted by Hollywood three times and have survived.

NDS: YOUR ROLE IN RIDDICK IS VERY PHYSICAL; TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND YOUR DIET.

VD: This was a different kind of strength, it was core strength. The director wanted something almost unrealistic to achieve. He asked me to do something that was just crazy and I went with it. He wanted me to condition my body so that I could, within a week's time, play the first act Riddick,

which is Riddick that has been on the throne. This is not the animal side. This is Riddick who is feeling the weight of being the king, which is bloated. Then, I had to be able, within a week's time, to be the hardened Riddick when he finds his animal side. So you can imagine how difficult that process was, because in a week's time I had to get in shape. The training was intense; weight lifting, crunches, running, and I did this even in-between takes. This and a diet that fluctuated, depending on where the schedule was. It was a very strange process. The director wanted to show the rebirth of the primal beast, this Furian beast, and at the same time to show the sloth-fitness of a Riddick that's been unnaturally on a throne for too long.

NDS: WHAT WAS YOUR DIET LIKE?

VD: My diet was pretty much stress, it works every time. I eat very, very simply nowadays. I am one of those

people whose mind is always in a creative space. So I am a really simple eater; you give me rice and beans and I'll be happy. I don't have a specific diet, except that I don't overeat. I don't eat late and I semi-eat healthy. My parents were macrobiotic,

homeopathic types. So when I was growing up there was never a soda or anything with sugar in the house. If it wasn't natural it wasn't in our house because my parents were into being vegetarians and believed completely in homeopathic remedies.

NDS: SO WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

VD: Most of my life, if anyone would have asked me what my favorite food is, I would have said free food. If it's free and I don't have to pay for it, I'll eat it. But I will tell you a perspective, because I don't know if you remember being a kid and having an association with food that was anything like mine, which was everything I did was governed with the caveat that I could eat.

NDS: IF I LOOKED INTO YOUR CLOSET WHAT WOULD I SEE?

VD: A mess! No, I'm kidding. T-shirts and jeans. I do have suits. And my favorite pieces are just the simplest of pieces, I really love simple, I just need T-shirts and jeans and I'm okay, I don't wear watches, I have a lot of sneakers, a lot of tank tops.

NDS: HOW DO YOU ESCAPE?

VD: I am lucky in that my career allows me to escape so much. People think that for most actors their work begins when they are on the set. But for me, I work more when I'm not shooting. The work that I do when I am not shooting is all the free creative work that dreams a mythology of where franchises can go. So my es-



Riddick Rule the Dark.

cape is the making of the movies, just as someone else escapes in watching of the movies.

NDS: ARE YOU A PRIUS GUY, WHAT CAR DO YOU DRIVE?

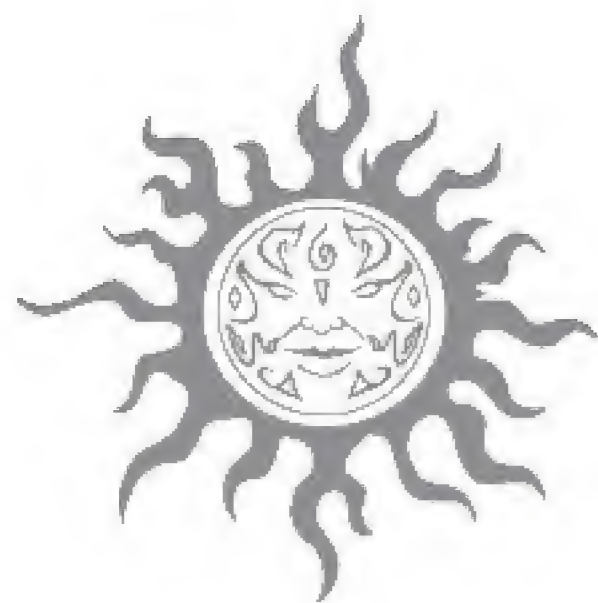
VD: I DRIVE A Yukon Flex Fuel, so I'm trying. I usually drive a SUV, kids in the back, more family oriented. I have been lucky that "Fast and Furious" has given me one car respectively for each film, so I have a really nice collection of Dom cars.

NDS: HOW MANY CARS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR GARAGE?

VD: I probably have three, the first one I got was the red Chevelle, the movie "Fast and Furious 4" opened April 2, 2009. My daughter was turning one and the studio sent over the car as a present, because the movie was doing so great at the box office, so I gave my one-year-old daughter the red Chevelle.



Vin Diesel in Riddick 3



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Mexico migrant train derailment kills 5, injures 22

VILLAHERMOSA, August 25, 2013 (AFP) - A cargo train carrying US-bound migrants derailed in a swampy area of southeastern Mexico yesterday, killing at least five people and injuring 22, officials said.

Authorities said the death toll could rise after the train known as "The Beast," which carries Central American migrants who pay smugglers to sit atop freight cars, careened off the track near a river in Tabasco state. e said 16 people were taken to the regional hospital of Las Choapas in the neighboring state of Veracruz, which is 25 minutes away by boat.

The cause of the accident was not yet known, he said, adding that the train was also carrying scrap metal. Mexican media said the train may have

been traveling too fast amid heavy rain. The Tabasco civil protection agency said eight of the train's 12 freight cars overturned at around 3:00 am and that rescuers were using hydraulic tools to cut through the metal to find survivors.

Luis Felipe Puente, the national civil protection coordinator, said that 22 people were hurt, down from his earlier report of 35 injuries, including 16 in serious condition.

Local officials said the accident took place far from any road in the municipality of Huimanguillo, near the state of Veracruz, and that the site was only accessible by air or boat.

Huimanguillo civil protection and security officials told AFP that between 250 and 300 migrants were aboard the train.



AFP - Yemeni security forces on Sunday foiled an attack by a would-be suicide bomber on an English language school once linked to the US embassy in Sanaa, a security official said. The assailant, 20, was caught after he hurled a grenade that failed to explode at the Yemen-America Language Institute in west Sanaa, the official said. Security guards found the man wearing an explosives belt, he added. The YALI institute was founded by the US embassy in 1975, but has been run privately for the past few years.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Syria okays UN chem arms probe...

Continued from page 1

British Foreign Secretary William Hague yesterday said that any evidence of a chemical attack by the Syrian regime may have already been destroyed.

"The fact is that much of the evidence could have been destroyed by that artillery bombardment," he said during a press conference after Damascus gave its green light to a mission by UN inspectors.

"Other evidence could have degraded over the last few days and other evidence could have been tampered with," he said.

Hague expressed concern that too much time had elapsed for the UN inspectors to gather enough concrete evidence.

"We have to be realistic now about what the UN team can achieve," he said.

If confirmed, the attack would mark the deadliest use of chemical agents since late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein gassed Iranian troops and Kurdish rebels in the 1980s.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said earlier Sunday the US military was "prepared to exercise whatever option" against Syria but intelligence was still being evaluated.

On a visit to Malaysia, Hagel said the US defence department had prepared "options for all contingencies" at Obama's request.

On Saturday, Obama held a rare meeting with his top aides and discussed Syria by phone with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Cameron's office said they two leaders agreed the use of chemical weapons would "merit a serious response" -- echoing French calls.

Yesterday, a strident warning came from Washington's arch-foe Iran.

"If the United States crosses this red line, there will be harsh consequences for the White House," armed forces deputy chief of staff Massoud Jazayeri said, without elaborating.

The Arab League is to meet on Tuesday to discuss the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, the bloc's deputy chief Ahmed Ben Helli said.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has said about 3,600 patients displaying "neurotoxic symptoms" had flooded into three Syrian hospitals on the day of the alleged attacks, and 355 of them died.

"Medical staff working in these facilities provided detailed information to MSF doctors regarding large numbers of patients arriving with symptoms including convulsions, excess saliva, pinpoint pupils, blurred vision and respiratory distress," said MSF operations director Bart Janssens.

MSF president Mego Terzian told AFP however that "scientific" proof is still lacking.

Judge to rule on San Bernardino bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES - The city of San Bernardino is expected to learn on Wednesday if it is eligible for bankruptcy protection despite the opposition of California's powerful public pension system - an important test for the federal law used by Detroit and other U.S. cities burdened by pension payment costs.

Most observers expect federal bankruptcy judge Meredith Jury to rule that cash-strapped San Bernardino, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, is eligible for Chapter 9 protection, a year after it declared bankruptcy having effectively run out of cash to meet its day-to-day obligations.

A city of just 240,000, San Bernardino could be a precursor for what is shaping up as a central issue in the far bigger bankruptcy case of Detroit: whether an insolvent city can cut already-promised pensions for its workers and pay less into its public retirement funds.



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International News

FARC kills 14 Colombian soldiers ahead of talks



BOGOTA (AFP) - FARC guerrillas killed 14 soldiers in an attack on a Colombian army patrol shortly after officials announced talks with the leftist rebels would resume today.

"We regret to inform you that as the result of a FARC terrorist attack, two sergeants and 11 soldiers were killed," the Colombian army leadership said in a statement Saturday.

The incident took place in a rural area in the Arauca department town of Tame.

Although the army did not specify the circumstances of the attack, military sources quoted by the media said it was an ambush.

The attack came on the heels of a separate assault on Wednesday claimed by the FARC's 10th Front that left 15 soldiers dead.

And in May, a FARC attack killed 11 troops.

The government and rebels have been holding peace talks in Havana since November, with the aim of ending Latin America's longest insurgency.

Former Colombian vice president Humberto de la Calle, the lead negotiator for Bogota, said the FARC would return to the talks on Monday to "continue the discussions normally."

The guerrillas have proposed a bilateral ceasefire during the talks, but President Juan Manuel Santos has rejected the offer, saying it could be used to strengthen the insurgency militarily.

Santos, meanwhile, has presented a proposal that any peace agreement must be put to a national referendum. The FARC has reiterated its hope that any accord would be put before a constituent assembly.



MUMBAI (AFP) - Indian activists hold posters during a protest march against the gang-rape of a female photographer in Mumbai on Sunday. Mumbai police arrested the fifth and final member of a gang suspected of raping a photographer, a crime that reignited anger about women's safety in India following a similar attack last year.

Pope urges world to help find solution to war in Syria

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis appealed Sunday to the international community to help find a solution to the civil war in Syria while denouncing a "proliferation in massacres and atrocities" there.

"It's not confrontation that offers perspectives of hope to resolve the problems but the capacity to meet and hold a dialogue," the pope said after traditional Sunday prayers.

"I launch an appeal to the international community to be more sensitive to this tragic situation and to commit itself to the maximum to help the dear Syrian nation find a solution to a war which spreads destruction and death," he said.

"I continue to follow the situation in Syria with suffering and worry," he said.

He denounced the "increase in violence in a war between brothers" and the "proliferation of massacres and atrocities".

The Syrian opposition has alleged that President Bashar al-Assad's regime carried out a chemical weapons attack near Damascus last Wednesday that killed hundreds of civilians. Syria denies the charges.

"The terrible images of these days again causes me to raise my voice so that the sound of weapons stops," the pope said without mentioning the chemical weapons claims.

Chinese-American billionaire blogger held on 'sex charges'

BEIJING (AFP) - China has arrested Chinese-American billionaire blogger Charles Xue, who has attracted 12 million followers with his reform-minded comments, for suspected involvement in prostitution, police said Sunday, as Beijing steps up controls on web users.

Venture capitalist Xue, one of the country's most popular bloggers, was detained by Beijing police Friday evening.

His arrest comes as authorities have been stepping up controls on the country's freewheeling web users in recent weeks.

Billionaire Xue is an avid blogger who posted his last message on China's hugely popular Twitter-like Sina Weibo microblog site at 5:41pm (0941 GMT) Friday, hours before he was detained. He has previously backed a campaign to release transparent details on pollution in China, and also highlighted the problem of child trafficking.

His detention dominated weibo discussion, with his Chinese name Xue Manzi the most searched phrase on Sunday.

Beijing police said on their verified weibo account they had arrested a 60-year-old man surnamed Xue and a 22-year-old female.

It also emerged Sunday that a journalist had been detained for "fabricating rumours" after he made online accusations of wrongdoing against a former senior official in Chongqing, the megacity once headed by fallen politician Bo Xilai.

Police in Beijing said the journalist with the News Express tabloid, whom they identified only by his surname Liu, "has been put under criminal detention according to the law for fabricating and spreading rumours".

The arrests come after authorities told Internet celebrities with millions of online followers to "promote virtues" and "uphold law" online.

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Health & Living

The painful cost of a nice derriere in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - Eager to resurrect her failed marriage, Mercedes dreamed of having a shapely rear end. A risky, potentially deadly, silicone injection technique beckoned. She said yes. Now she rues that day.

"It hurts so much I cannot sit down for even five minutes," said the 45-year-old, her voice quivering. She is so embarrassed she won't give her last name.

Thus goes body worship in Venezuela, where undergoing plastic surgery is as common as going to the dentist and beauty pageants are like a religion.

Two years ago Mercedes underwent a procedure that has killed 15 people in Venezuela since 2011. It involves having a gel-like substance called a synthetic biopolymer shot into the body.

It is not put inside an implant, but rather flows like an

injection and spreads through tissues, alas uncontrollably.

Mercedes received 560cc of the stuff in each buttock. It was a low point in her life when she was desperate to rekindle her marriage and win back her estranged husband.

"I did no research on what it was. I just wanted to know who did the best job," Mercedes told AFP while waiting at a clinic. Her dream is to get the silicone out of her body.

The original operation cost the equivalent of \$300. Days later, she started feeling an intense pain. She has learned to live with it, as she has with stinging criticism from her family.

"I ask God and the Virgin for forgiveness so I can get out of this. This is no way to live," she said, her eyes clenched shut.

-- No to biopolymers --

Astrid de la Rosa, who underwent the same procedure



only to see the gel migrate to her lower back and hips, created a support foundation in 2011.

It is called the "No to Biopolymers Foundation" and has recorded 15 deaths so far from complications resulting from this beauty enhancing technique.

The foundation has knowledge of 40,000 people who opted for the procedure, and the number is growing even though in November of 2012

the Venezuelan government banned the use of use of stuffing-like materials such as the synthetic biopolymers for aesthetic purposes.

The authorities have brought charges against some doctors and beauticians who continue to offer the service.

"There are even recent cases of parents who give their daughters the biopolymer butt and breast treatment for their 15th birthday and now they regret it," said De la Rosa.

Omar Guerrero, a 35-year-old trainer at a gym in the western city of San Cristobal, shot the gel into his pecs to look more buff and is now an utter wreck.

The polymers migrated to muscles between his ribs, tightening his thorax and limiting his breathing. He's been flat out in bed for two years.

"I cannot do exercise. I cannot run. I am a living dead man," said Guerrero.

With his artificially toned up muscles, he said, people shun him in hospitals and treat him as if he were HIV-positive.

He went to one of two doctors known to be offering a technique to try to rid people of the stuff they pumped into themselves.

One is a Caracas plastic surgeon named Daniel Slobodianik. In the waiting room of his office it is standing room only.

He says that since 2011 he must have seen about 400 patients with this problem.

The legion of walking wounded in his clinic includes: a 60-year-old woman who can barely move she is in so much pain; two cousins who had the procedure done at the same time and while not yet smarting, are scared by what they are hearing; and a woman who is trying to get pregnant and is worrying what the silicone in her body might do to a fetus.

Slobodianik withdraws the silicone in a \$6,000 operation that is still considered experimental by the Venezuelan Society for Plastic Surgery, as there is no guarantee of complete recovery or even improvement.

Jesus Pereira, president of the society, said the only time it endorses the procedure is when the gel is actually at the point of bursting out of the body.

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Sci-Tech

Dutch back Greenpeace ship's Arctic oil-drilling protest

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands on Sunday said Greenpeace's right to peaceful

protest was "indisputable" after the environmental group defied Russian authorities by deploying an icebreaker through an Arctic shipping route without permission.

Greenpeace on Saturday announced its ship, the Amsterdam-registered Arctic Sunrise entered the Northern Sea Route to protest against oil drilling -- despite being blocked by Russia on several occasions citing concerns about the icebreaker's ability to withstand thick ice.

"Greenpeace's right to a peaceful demonstration is indisputable," the Dutch Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It added: "According to the data the Netherlands have on the ship, there is no reason to doubt its technical state."

But The Hague added that countries bordering the Northern Sea Route were "allowed to have additional legislation for ships, to ensure safe and responsible use of the route."

The Hague contacted Moscow on Friday "to see how Greenpeace in the short term could meet... requirements" but was yet to receive

an answer.

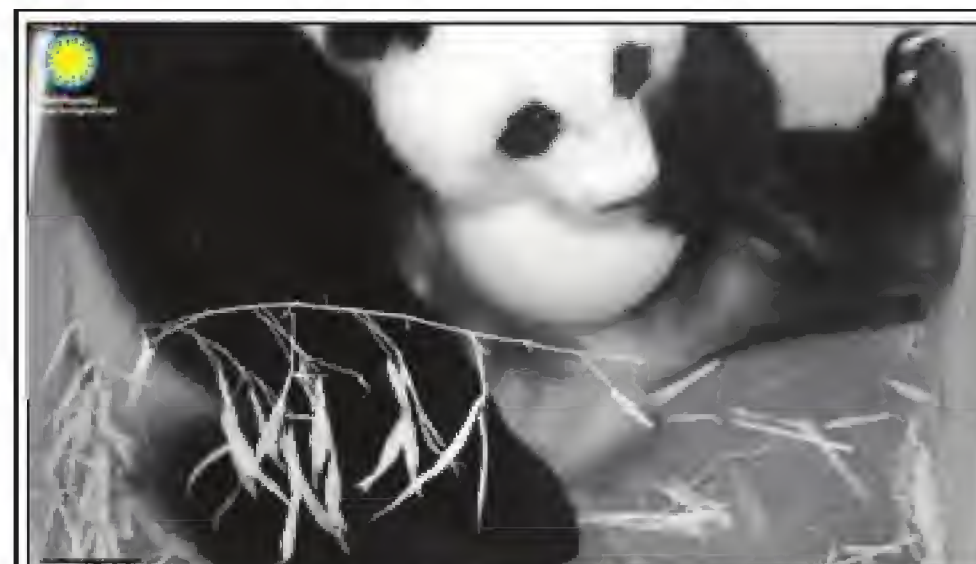
The Arctic Sunrise was heading into the Kara Sea on Saturday where several vessels contracted by Rosneft, Russia's top oil firm and its US partner ExxonMobil, are conducting seismic testing to prepare for offshore drilling near the Russian Arctic National Park.

The Russian transportation ministry has accused the Dutch-flagged vessel of "crudely" violating Russian and international law, with the global environmental group in turn calling Russia's move a "thinly veiled attempt to stifle peaceful protest."

Greenpeace says the plans to drill in the protected ecosystem were in contravention of Russia's own laws.

Established in 2009, the natural park is home to endangered species such as the bowhead whale and is a major breeding ground for polar bears.

Russia and the United States hope that the global warming melting the Arctic sea ice will help them tap the vast oil and gas resources believed to be buried in the region.



WASHINGTON (AFP) - This still image from the PandaCam at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington shows Giant Panda Mei Xiang on Friday, after the zoo announced she had given birth to a cub, raising hopes for a rare success after a series of false pregnancies, officials said. The cub's twin was stillborn, casting a shadow over the rare success. Mei Xiang had five false pregnancies from 2007 to 2012. Giant pandas often bear twins.

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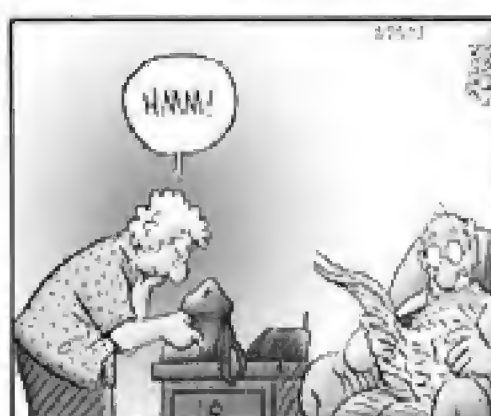
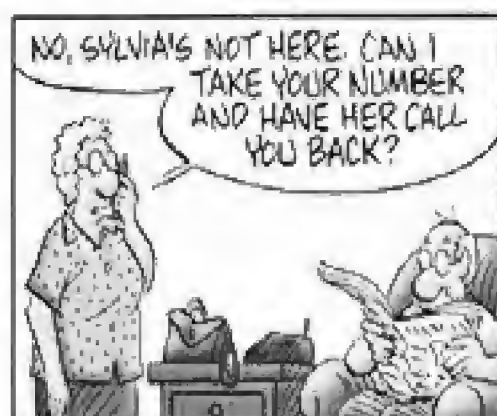
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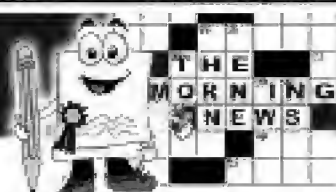
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COMICS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Carbolic ____
5. Before JFK
8. Unlocked
12. Actress Theda
13. Frying need
14. "____ Wanna Do" (2 wds.)
15. Felon
17. Sloping passage
18. Hospital workers (abbr.)
19. Broad valleys
21. Comic Bill's nickname
22. Sandwich order
23. Flaring star
25. Give the third ____
28. Deck officers
31. Messenger's mission
32. Most competent
33. Easily fooled
34. Very formal
35. Between-meals bite
37. Ex-soldier
38. Actress Sothorn
40. Submarine-detecting device
42. Peat marsh
45. Mark Harmon TV show
47. Repair
49. Sunbathers' goals
50. Santa's busiest mo.
51. "____ just me or..." (2 wds.)
52. Cooking herb
53. Poet's "before"
54. Ensign's meal
8. Boathouse item
9. Appeases
10. Sailors' saint
11. Pinches
16. Inactivity
20. South of the border
22. Shout of approval
24. Benny's Rochester, e.g.
25. Lion's lair
26. Historical time frame
27. Smiling from ear to ear
29. Snaky letter
30. Pig's pad
32. Progress
36. Large crowd
38. Soldier insects
39. March Madness sponsor (abbr.)
41. Poetic never
42. Diamond corner
43. Milo's pal
44. Understands
46. Mariner's dir.
48. Vigor's pal

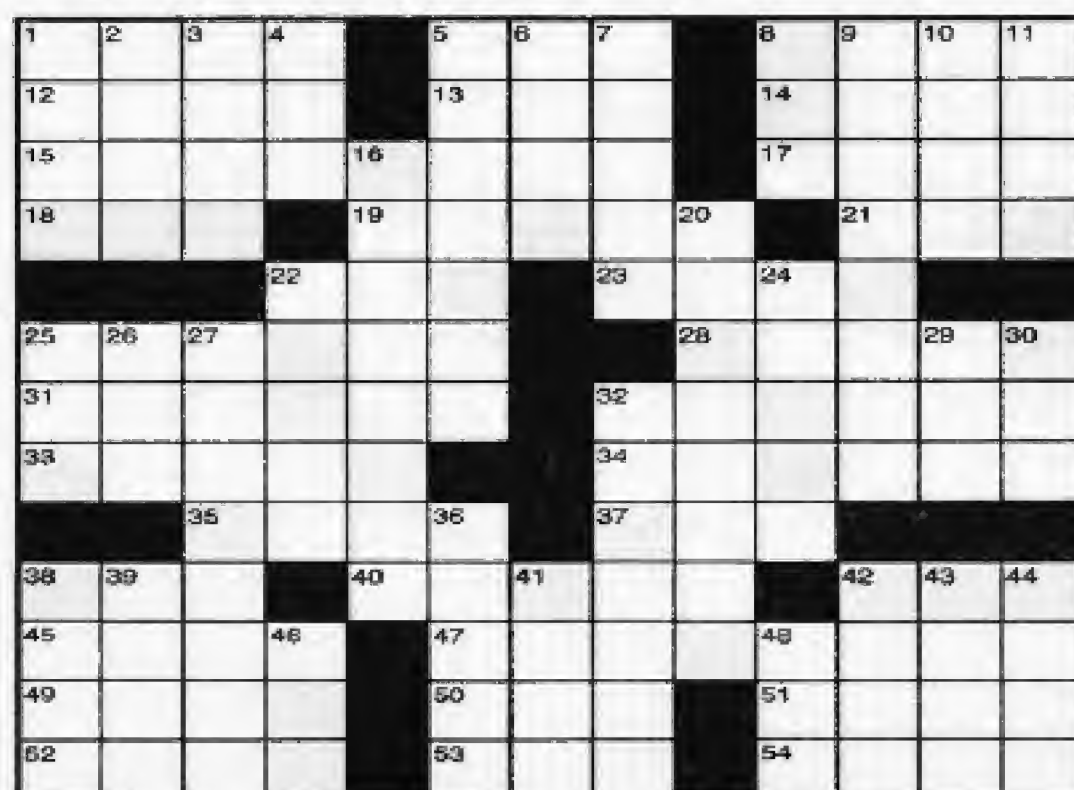
DOWN

1. Start of a tot's song
2. Singer Vikki
3. Spring bloom
4. TVA project
5. Gave
6. Old phone feature
7. Barkin of "The Big Easy"

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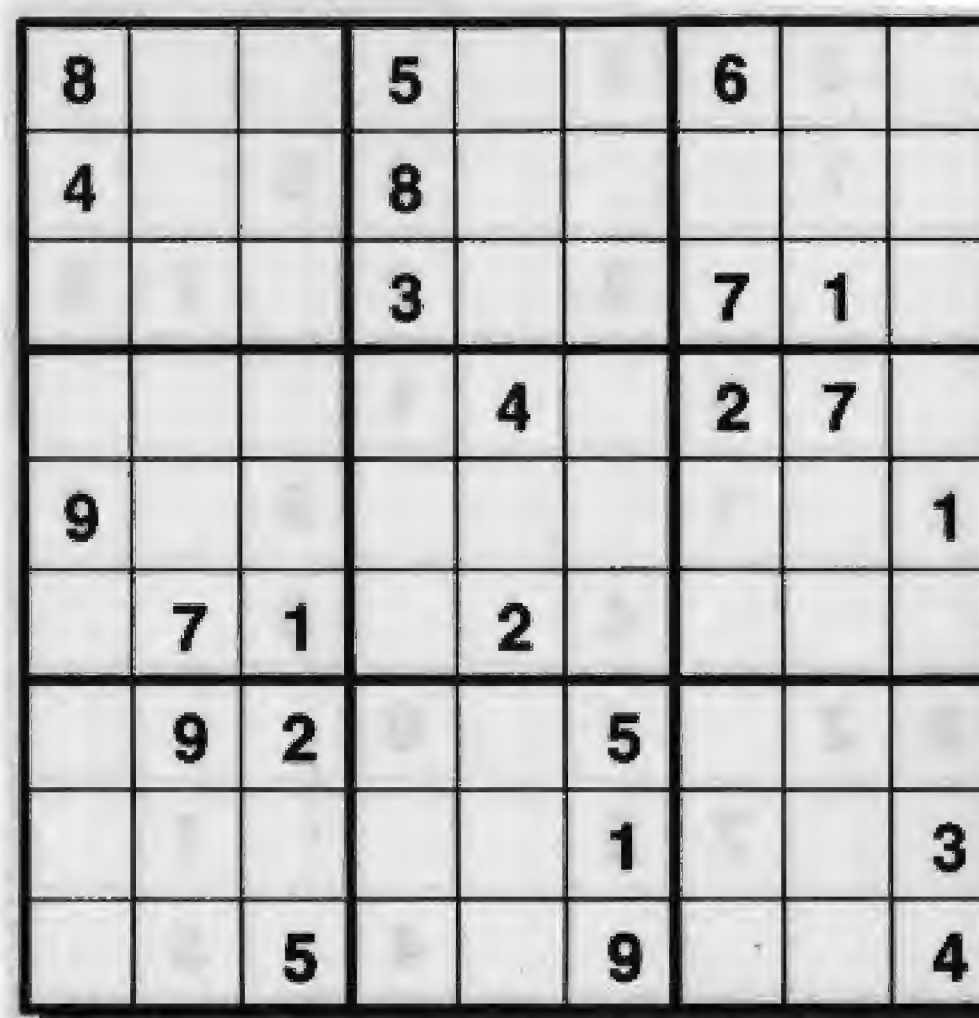
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In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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National fast-food strike planned for August 29

AFP photo shows people walking into a Wendy's fast food restaurant in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. The fast food industry has been roiled by a growing movement to unionize workers and a call for a living wage of \$15 an hour. Labor organizers are calling for fast-food workers across the country to stage a day of strikes on August 29 in what is expected to be the largest event in the ongoing campaign. The action is set for the day after the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, in which Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to a crowd of hundreds of thousands calling for equality and racial harmony. The strike is expected to touch dozens of cities and involve thousands of workers.



FINANCE

Aging population may explode global economy by 2050



** The number of people over 60 years old has doubled in the past 30 years and is expected to grow at the same pace by 2050. Increasing pension payments at a time of massive lay-offs could result in an unsupportable burden for the world's economies.

By the middle of the century more than 3 million people will be older than one hundred years, according to a United Nations report. Today the number of 100-year-olds is about 300,000.

Improved quality of health

care, intensive developments in medicine, expanding access to education and economic well-being make a longer lifetime possible. But while mankind may rejoice in the opportunity of long-life, the aging population brings new challenges.

Economically, a growing number of the elderly people could result in another fiscal collapse for developed countries, as increasing pension payments weigh on local budgets.

Sudan earns \$236 million from South Sudan oil fees

KHARTOUM (AFP) - Sudan earned more than \$230 million in fees for the export of South Sudanese oil this year, official media reported on Sunday, days before a Khartoum deadline to shut the pipelines. "The government of South Sudan sent the fees for oil transportation to the Sudan Central Bank," the official SUNA news agency quoted the bank's assistant governor as saying.

The documented amount is \$236 million, SUNA said.

That figure covers fees for transporting South Sudanese oil to the Port Sudan export terminal, as well as a package to compensate Khartoum for the loss of oil when South Sudan separated, SUNA said.

The South became independent two years ago. It split with about 75 percent of United Sudan's oil production, leaving the country without its major source of export earnings.

China to consume more oil than U.S. in 4 yrs

As the U.S. produces more of its own energy, China is set to steal a dubious distinction from its American geopolitical rival.

According to a report released by Wood Mackenzie, the world's second-largest economy will be the globe's largest importer of oil by volume by 2017. The shift is driven by more Chinese consumption, and a prodigious shale boom that is lessening U.S. reliance on imports.

According to the report, China will spend \$500 billion a year on crude oil imports by 2020.

From 2005 to 2020, China's oil imports will rise from 2.5 million barrels per day to 9.2 million barrels a day. That roughly represents a 360% increase in China's crude oil imports.

The turning point for Chinese crude oil imports to surpass the U.S. will be around 2017, Woods Mackenzie researchers said.

China's growth in import demand can largely be attributed to its domestic oil demand growth, driven by cars and commercial ground transportation.

RIO DE JANEIRO : Close up shot of a one Brazilian real coin. Brazil's central bank is to earmark \$55 billion until year's end to prop up the sagging real at a time when Latin America's biggest economy is showing weak growth, according to a statement issued late Thursday. The bank announced the massive currency intervention involving daily sales of currency swaps and derivative contracts to boost the real and regain the confidence of markets.

(AFP PHOTO)

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	B	A		A	N	T	T	E	R	M
H	A	S	H	P	O	E		A	R	E
O	N	E	A		O	W	E		M	I
D	A	R	Y	L		T	W	E	E	D
				P	O	O	C	H	E	S
T	H	R	O	U	G	H		S	T	E
L	A	B		Y	E	W		O	I	L
C	L	I	F	F		C	H	I	M	N
			E	R	S	K	I	N	E	
L	I	E	O	N		S	C	A	M	S
T	O	D	D		I	M	P		N	O
A	B	E		F	O	E		T	R	E
N	E	A	R		F	O	R		E	W

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Same-sex pairs shake up tango championship in Argentina



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - The sexy, sensual world of tango is experiencing a shake-up, as same-sex couples compete for the first time in the world championships in Argentina, where the dance was born.

The crowds in this traditionally conservative bastion of machismo culture, surprisingly, seem to embrace the change.

Enthusiastic cheers and massive applause rang out in a Buenos Aires exhibition hall for Juan Pablo Ramirez and Daniel Arroyo, as they danced to a 1940s classic.

"It takes two to tango," Ramirez told AFP, elated after his successful performance, "but they don't necessarily have to be different sexes."

Ramirez, a 34-year-old Argentine professional dancer, and Arroyo, 18, are among four same-sex couples -- including three male pairs and one female -- competing in the 11th annual world championship.

The dance partners said they are trying to excel in the wider world of tango, not just a gay subculture. "Our goal is for people to say, 'what good danc-

ing!'" Ramirez said.

Although same-sex couples are now seen as out of the ordinary in the milongas (dance halls) where tango is celebrated amid a cult of masculinity, the origins of the dance tell a different story.

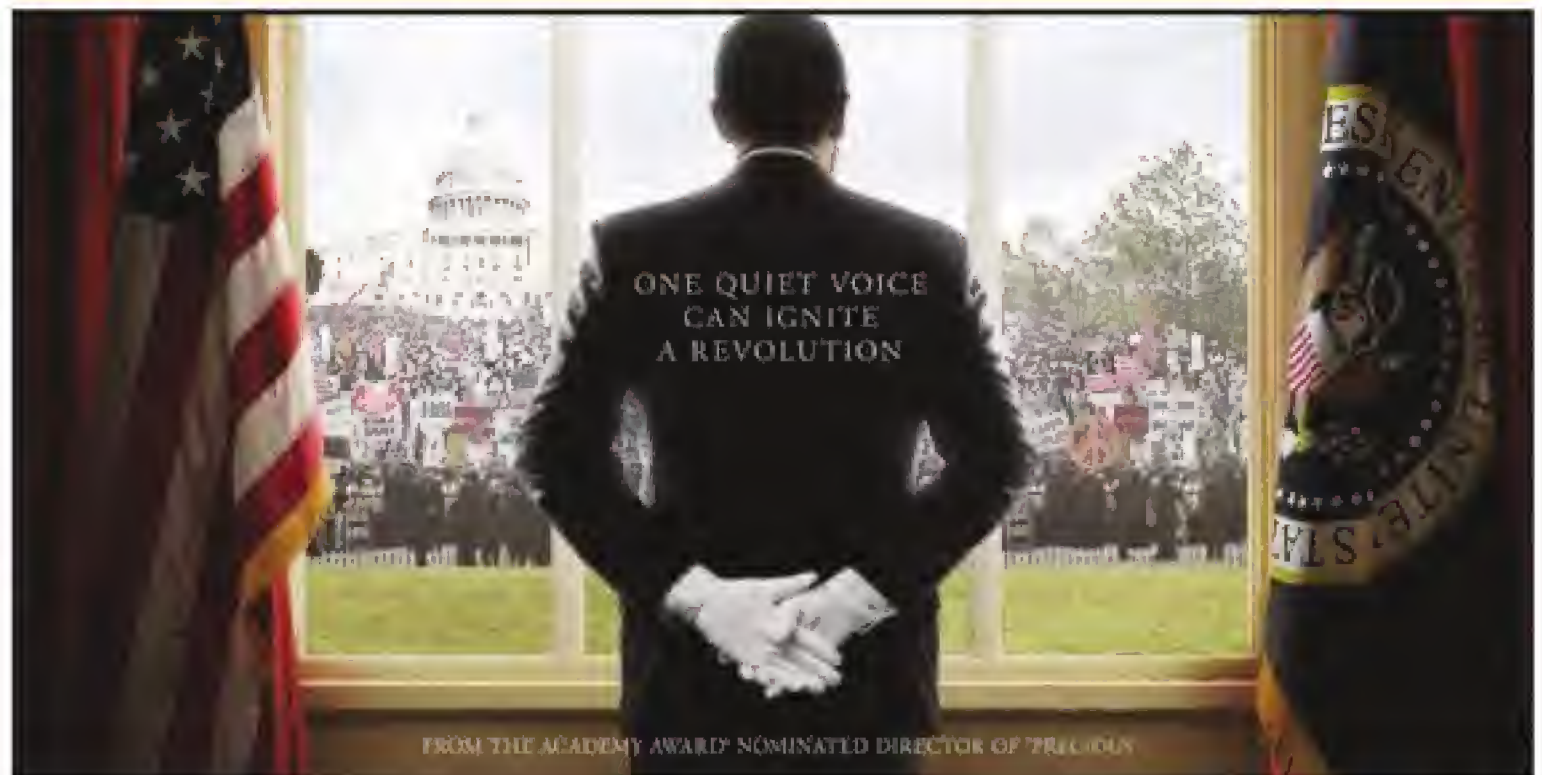
Born in the brothels of the 19th century, the dance was at that time performed by pairs of men -- women were initially prohibited from participating in a dance considered prostitute-like, historians say.

Gustavo Mozzi, a musician and composer and director of the tango championship, told AFP that same-sex couples were never officially barred from the competition, though they never entered in the past.

Heyman, 31, a dancing shoe saleswoman, and Christie, 32, a violin professor, say they are not gay -- both have or had boyfriends -- but started dancing together for lack of partners at the milongas.

"Nobody asked us to dance. So to avoid being left sitting, drinking wine, we said, 'let's play. Let's have fun.'" Heyman explained. "And we loved it."

'Butler' tops N. America box office for second week



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US civil rights epic "Lee Daniels' The Butler," which is generating serious Oscar buzz, topped the North American box office for a second straight week, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The drama, based on the real-life story of an African American butler who witnessed decades of US history from within the White House walls, earned \$17 million, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

Critics have hailed the performances of Forest Whitaker in the title role and Oprah Winfrey as his wife, giving the actors a leg up in the early race to the Academy Awards.

"We're the Millers," a dark

comedy about pot-smuggling starring Jennifer Aniston as a stripper, moved up from third to second place with \$13.5 million in ticket sales.

"The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones," a teen-romance demon thriller about a girl who discovers dark secrets from her family's past, debuted in third place at \$9.3 million.

Another debut film, action disaster comedy "The World's End," opened in fourth place with \$8.9 million in sales.

The newcomer pushed animated film "Planes," a spin-off of the hugely successful "Cars" franchise, into fifth place at \$8.6 million, just ahead of science-fiction thriller "Elysium," which dropped to sixth place at \$7.1

million.

"You're Next," a horror flick about a family weekend gone awry, opened in seventh place with \$7.05 million.

"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters," an adaptation based on the book series by Rick Riordan about a schoolboy who is the son of the Greek god of the sea, Poseidon, made \$5.2 million, dropping to eighth place from sixth last week.

Woody Allen's acclaimed drama "Blue Jasmine," which stars Cate Blanchett and Alec Baldwin, earned \$4.3 million, weighing in at ninth.

Superhero action comedy sequel "Kick-Ass 2" rounded out the top 10 with \$4.27 million.



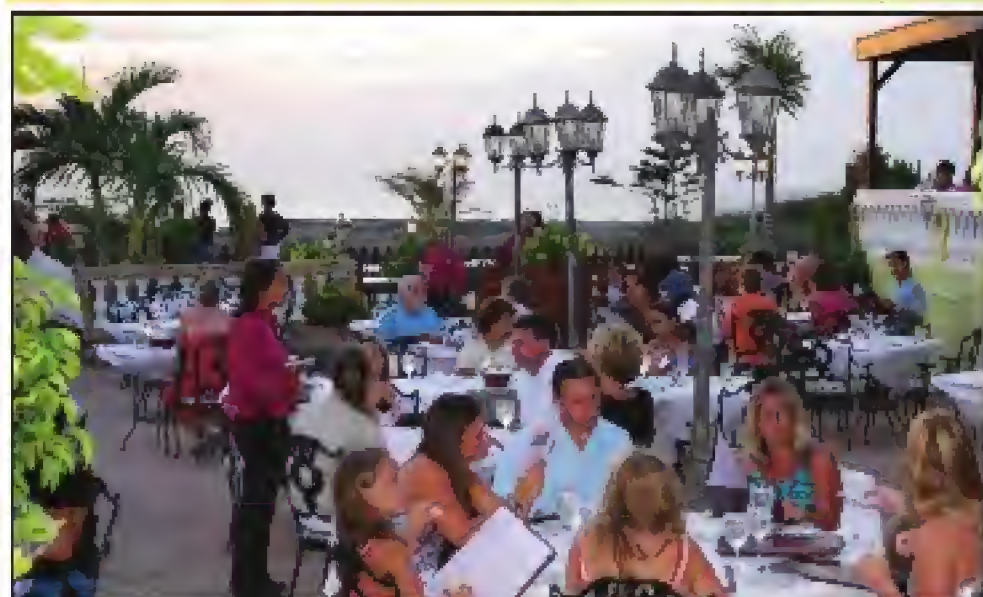
BEIJING (AFP) - At least one million cockroaches have escaped a farm in China where they were being bred for use in traditional medicine, a report said. The cockroaches fled the facility in Dafeng, in the eastern province of Jiangsu, for surrounding cornfields earlier this month after an "unknown perpetrator" destroyed the plastic greenhouse where they were raised, the Modern Express newspaper said. Disease control authorities have sent five investigators to the area to come up with a plan to stamp out the insects. Farm owner Wang Pengsheng invested more than 100,000 yuan (\$16,000) in 102 kilograms of *Periplaneta americana* eggs after spending six months developing a business plan, the report said. The cockroach is generally considered a pest, but believers in traditional Chinese medicine -- which uses both plants and animals, including endangered species -- say extracts from it can treat diseases including cancer, reduce inflammation and improve immunity.

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island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning

a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when

they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view

(or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the



single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. **Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.**

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our



concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

SPORTS



--- Continuing with en route to the world of football Brazil, 2014, we'll give you a little history of the best defenders of all time, **Gaetano Scirea**, #7 best 20 defender who with his talent and skill, contributed greatly to his national team.

Gaetano Scirea, (May 25, 1953 - September 3, 1989) was a football player Italian is considered, along with Franz Beckenbauer (who implemented the position: last line defender during the 1970s as part of the tactical scheme 3-5-2) and Franco Baresi, as one of the 3 best defenders in world football history (and with the latter, the best sweeper and defender in the history of Italian football), both for its technical-tactical (the mere fact of not letting him participate even one minute during the 1982 World Baresi, also selected by Bearzot, is an indicator), and its human and sportsmanship, which was recognized and admired by opposing players and even staunch supporters of rival clubs.

He began his career in 1973 in Bergamo Atalanta BC (started in the lower divisions of the club) as a striker, making his debut in Serie A by 24 September of the same year against Cagliari. In this club played 58 games for 2 seasons and scored a goal.

He came to Juventus FC, at the request of former Czech player-coach Ľestmír Vycpálek-club in 1974.

In the Old Lady, which took the position of libero in place of a historical and Sandro Salvadore, made history as the leader of "The Iron Curtain" bianconera (one of the best defensive lines in the history of world football also formed by the selected national Claudio Gentile, Francesco Morini and Antonello Cuccureddu-relieved with Trapattoni by Antonio Cabrini-fundamental in the Juve unbeaten in Serie A for 903 minutes-current second-best record in the same series in Italy, and 1143 minutes Nazionale in official matches), playing 552 games (a record in the entity, 397 games in Serie A) for 14 seasons, scoring 24 goals.

Practicing first team captain, won all possible titles at club level in the world (for a total of 14 in his career). For his sportsmanship and leadership



is considered by the club's fans as the best exponent of the famous Stilo Juve after the famous Italian striker Giampiero Boniperti.

With the Italian (mainly nourished Juventus FC players, his spine, for "The Legendary Cycle" in mid-1970) made his debut against Greece on December 30, 1975. Participated, and as a cornerstone of Enzo Bearzot process in three World Cups: 1978 Argentina (where his chosen stood in fourth place in the overall standings), Spain 1982 (where Italy was champion) and Mexico 1986 (8th of final against France) and Euro 1980 (Italy was ranked the 4th overall).

With 78 games played and internationally, and 2 goals scored, lived his final consecration in World Spain, which led to exceptionally selected from the defense that won the title after a start full of uncertainty. His last game with the team was in the World Mex-

ico, to the French, the June 17, 1986.

After his retirement as a professional player in 1988, with the Juve-players acted as observer for the Turin club until his death in a car accident in Skierniewice (Poland) on September 3, 1989.

Scirea is one of only five players in football history (along with his former teammates Stefano Tacconi, Antonio Cabrini, Sergio Brio and Dutchman Danny Blind) who have won all national and international titles possible (the trophies recognized by UEFA and FIFA) at club level. In addition, next to the players mentioned above, is one of only nine players in the history of European football have won the Grand Slam (ie, the 3 major European competitions). These include the presence of 6 juventinos (3 appointed with Marco Tardelli and Gianluca Vialli).



LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea announced on Sunday that they have reached an agreement to sign Brazilian attacking midfielder Willian from Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala, subject to the granting of a work permit. The 25-year-old had been set to join Tottenham Hotspur, having undergone a medical at the north London club earlier this week, only for Chelsea to hijack the deal. British media reports claim Chelsea will pay a fee of around £30 million (\$47 million, 35 million euros) to secure Willian's services. Willian will be the fourth player to join Chelsea during the current transfer window, following Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, Dutch midfielder Marco van Ginkel and Germany international Andre Schuerle.

Boxing results:



Argenis Mendez



Gonzales knocking down Mares

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Argenis Mendez retained his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight world title Friday with a majority draw against Arash Usmanee on the first fight card promoted by former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson.

In the main event, Dominican Mendez retained his belt against Usmanee, an Afghan-born Canadian who was getting his first world title chance.

Usmanee was the more aggressive fighter, with one judge rewarding his relentless effort by scoring the bout 115-113 in his favor.

Mendez emerged with a record of 21-2-1 with 11 wins inside the distance, while Arash now has a record of 20-1-1 with 10 knockouts.

On the undercard, Argentina's Jesus Cuellar posted a unanimous decision over previously unbeaten Dominican Claudio Marrero to claim the World Boxing Association interim featherweight title.

Cuellar, who knocked Marrero down in the sixth round, improved to 23-1 with 18 knockouts, while Marrero fell to 14-1.

While in Los Angeles, Jhonny Gonzalez defeated previously unbeaten champion Abner Mares in the first round to regain the World Boxing Council featherweight title in shocking fashion on Saturday.

Gonzalez was awarded a

TKO victory after nailing Mares with a devastating left hook that floored the champion. Mares got up and continued to fight on the ropes but was knocked down again by a flurry of punches from Gonzalez. The referee stopped the fight at 2:55 of the opening round.

It was the first career loss for the 27-year-old Mares, who drops to 26-1 with one draw. Mares had won six straight fights since registering a draw against Colombia's Yonhy Perez in 2010.

Gonzalez improves to 55-8 with 47 knockouts, as he regained the crown he lost in September to compatriot Daniel Ponce de Leon, who Mares beat in May.

In an earlier bout on the undercard, Leo Santa Cruz pummeled Victor Terrazas with a third round knockout to capture the WBC's junior featherweight crown.

Referee Lou Moret stopped the fight at 2:09 of the third, with Terrazas defenseless and unable to see out of his right eye after being knocked down previously in the round.

Santa Cruz vacated his bantamweight world title to move up to the junior featherweight ranks.

Terrazas falls to 37-3 with one drawn. Coming into the fight he had lost only once since his pro debut a decade ago. Saturday's defeat also snapped a 12-fight win streak.

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Boxing: Abraham wants world title bout after Shihepo win

BERLIN (AFP) - Ex-world champion Arthur Abraham has said he aims to quickly win back the WBO super-middleweight title he lost last March following his unanimous points win over Namibia's Willbforce Shihepo.

The 33-year-old Abraham took Saturday's bout against Shihepo in Schwerin, north-east of Berlin, with the judges scoring the bout 116-113, 117-111, 116-112, but the former champion admitted he was not impressed with his own display.

"Of course, I can't be completely happy with the performance," said Berlin-based



Germany's Arthur Abraham (R) exchanges punches with Willbforce Shihepo of Namibia during their super-middleweight boxing fight

Abraham, having only taken control of the fight from the eighth round.

"I made a few mistakes, which I have to iron out for the future."

"Shihepo used to be in the top ten and you don't beat a fighter like that easily."

After some whistles from the 5,600 fans in the sports hall after his victory, Abraham explained his approach.

"The fans are used to me knocking opponents out, but I wanted to out-box him and not get involved in a brawl," said Abraham, who picked up the 37th win of his career, with 23 KOs and four defeats.

This was the seventh defeat of the 30-year-old Shihepo's career, his first since 2009, to leave him with 15 knock-outs from 20 wins in a pro career spanning 10 years.



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Aruban Xander Bogaerts #72 of the Boston Red Sox hits a single in the ninth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium on Saturday in Los Angeles, California. This was Bogaerts' first major league hit of his career.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
TAMPA	74	53	.583	--
BOSTON	76	55	.580	--
BALTIMORE	69	59	.539	5.5
YANKEES	68	61	.527	7.0
TORONTO	57	73	.438	18.5

Central

	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	76	53	.589	--
CLEVELAND	70	59	.543	6.0
KANSAS	64	64	.500	11.5
MINNESOTA	57	71	.445	18.5
CHICAGO	53	75	.414	22.5

West

TEXAS	75	54	.581	--
OAKLAND	72	56	.562	2.5
SEATTLE	59	69	.461	15.5
LA ANGELES	57	71	.445	17.5
HOUSTON	43	85	.336	31.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	77	52	.597	--
WASHINGTON	65	64	.504	12.0
NY METS	58	69	.457	18.0
PHILADELPHIA	58	71	.450	19.0
MIAMI	49	79	.383	27.5

Central

	W	L	Pct	GB
PITTSBURGH	76	53	.589	—
ST. LOUIS	76	53	.589	—
CINCINNATI	74	56	.569	2.5
MILWAUKEE	56	73	.434	20.0
CHICAGO	55	74	.426	21.0

West

West	W	L	Pct	GB
DODGERS	76	53	.589	—
ARIZONA	66	62	.516	9.5
COLORADO	60	71	.458	17.0
SAN DIEGO	58	71	.450	18.0
SAN FRANCISCO	57	72	.442	19.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Team New Zealand booked their berth in the 34th America's Cup finals Sunday with another emphatic victory over Italy's Luna Rossa. The Kiwis won the decisive eighth race in the best-of-13 challenger finals by three minutes and 20 seconds, taking the series 7-1. They secured the right to take on defenders Oracle Team USA on San Francisco Bay in September for world yachting's venerable prize. It's the fifth time in the past six America's Cup Matches that the Kiwis will be a contestant.



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Football: Bayern's Spain star Thiago faces lengthy lay-off

BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich's Spain midfielder Thiago Alcantara is expected to be out for up to seven weeks after he undergoes an operation today for torn ankle ligaments, the European champions confirmed.

The 22-year-old, who cost Bayern 25 million euros (US\$33.45m) from Barcelona in July, limped out of Bayern's 2-0 win over Nuremberg on Saturday.

A scan by Bayern's team doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt confirmed the need for an operation on his right ankle and recuperation for up to seven weeks.

The attacking midfielder is expected to miss half of Bayern's Champions League group stage matches, as well as Spain's internationals against Finland and Chile next month.

Bayern have won all three of their opening Bundesliga games so far, but are third in the table behind leaders Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen.

Formula One: Vettel storms to victory



SPA FRANCORCHAMPS (AFP) - Sebastian Vettel delivered a crushing blow to his title rivals on Sunday when he increased his lead in the drivers' championship with a consummate triumph for Red Bull in the Belgian Grand Prix. The defending triple world champion came home a comfortable 16.869 seconds ahead of second-placed Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Ferrari with Hamilton third for Mercedes. Vettel pitted after 14 laps and emerged second behind Button's McLaren until lap 17 when he regained the lead with Alonso third after passing Hamilton. (German driver Sebastian Vettel (C), between Red Bull's team principal Christian Horner (L) and Red Bull's technical chief Adrian Newey)



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